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## PASTOR DILLE TALKS ON RUEF

Pastor Dille, mentioned in the following report from the San Francisco Chronicle, is well known in Honolulu having lectured and preached in the Methodist church here, besides joining a large party in a trip to the summit of Mauna Loa on the occasion of an eruption in Mokuawewe crater, in the nineties:

Using the nineteenth chapter of St. Luke as the text of his sermon, "A Reformed Grafter Pardoned," Rev. E. R. Dille, pastor of the Central Church, preached last night on the contrast between Zaccheus, the "graft" of the Bible, and Abe Ruef, the grafter who is seeking a parole.

Dr. Dille went into the history of Zaccheus thoroughly, telling of his extortions in Jericho, of his securing money dishonestly, of the hatred in which he was held by the people and of his finally being forced to live in a sycamore tree, that he and his family might evade the villifications of those whom he and his publicans had robbed. The pastor then told of the Savior's visit to the abode of the Biblical grafter, who, influenced by the kindness and love of the Lord, paid back the money he had extorted four-fold and thereafter lived in such holiness as to become a bishop.

Coming down to the case of Ruef, Dr. Dille said: "The other day I was asked to sign a petition and join in a movement to secure a parole for Abraham Ruef. 'I would like to help Mr. Ruef for the very reason that Christianity is meant to help men and not to torture them in jails. I would much prefer seeing more hopeful prisoners than despairing prisoners, and a parole certainly means hope to the man behind the bars.'

"I would be only too happy to sign a petition for a Ruef parole if Ruef would only act like Zaccheus—which merely means an offer on his part to return the loot he took from a stricken city. But, up to the present time, neither Ruef nor his accomplices have expressed their intention of doing any such thing.

"And until Abe Ruef expresses a willingness to make reparation, either in whole or in part, I cannot conscientiously lend my efforts toward securing a parole or a pardon for him."

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## OCEAN CURRENTS AND WEATHER

With reference to a discussion regarding the possible permanent change in the climate of Alaska due to a shifting of the Japanese current, the monthly review of the weather bureau says that there have been many warmer Decembers than last December during the past twenty-eight years when records have been kept, but only four warmer Januaries and no warmer February; although February, 1902, was but about one degree colder. So much for the facts, now as to the why.

"It is a fact," the report adds, "that the atmospheric pressure for the past winter averaged below normal over the Alaska area, it being decidedly so in the month of February, when the excess of temperature was most marked. It is also true that in January and February the pressure was above normal off the California and Oregon coasts and over Western Canada. This leads to the assumption that the circulation of the winds around the high-pressure area in middle latitudes of the Pacific Ocean and their northward deflection into the low pressure area over Alaska was the real cause of the warm weather in the latter region in January and February, 1912. The extension of the Japanese current to the northward of its normal course, so far as this happened at all, probably only on the surface, was doubtless incidental to this pressure distribution and the resulting winds. As soon as the usual pressure of distribution was re-established, normal temperature conditions again set in over Alaska."

This appears to be again a case of mistaking the result for the cause. A persistent and unusual northward trend of the winds would blow the surface water somewhat northward of its usual position. The pressure distribution as observed would account for the water and temperature abnormalities, but why the pressure distribution? This great riddle of the elements remains unsolved. — Nebraska State Journal.

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